## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In Re:	§	Chapter 11
	§	
W.R. GRACE & CO., et al.,	§	Jointly Administered
	§	Case No. 01-01139 (JKF)
Debtors.	§	
	§	

# FEE AUDITOR'S FINAL REPORT REGARDING FEE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMANTS COMMITTEE FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD INTERIM PERIOD

This is the final report of Warren H. Smith & Associates, P.C., acting in its capacity as fee auditor in the above-captioned bankruptcy proceedings, regarding the <a href="Twenty-Third Interim Fee">Twenty-Third Interim Fee</a> Application of the Asbestos Personal Injury Claimants Committee (the "Application").

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. The Asbestos Personal Injury Claimants Committee (the "Committee") was appointed by the United States Trustee to represent the interests of the asbestos claimants in the Consolidated Cases. In the Application, the Committee seeks approval of costs totaling \$2,195.81 for reimbursement of expenses incurred between October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006, by Joseph Rice of Motley Rice, LLC, a member of the Committee.
- 2. In conducting this audit and reaching the conclusions and recommendations contained herein, we reviewed in detail the Application in its entirety, including each of the time and expense entries included in the exhibits to the Application, for compliance with 11 U.S.C. 330, Local Rule 2016-2 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware,

Amended Effective February 1, 2001, and the United States Trustee Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. 330, Issued January 30, 1996, (the "Guidelines"), as well as for consistency with precedent established in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. We served on the Committee an initial report based on our review, and received a response from the Committee, portions of which response are quoted herein.

#### **DISCUSSION**

3. In our initial report, we noted two hotel charges that appear excessive. The entries are provided below.

10/19/06 Joseph F. Rice - Travel to NYC for meeting October 9, 2006 210.91 (1/3 of hotel bill).

11/09/06 Joseph F. Rice - Travel to Dallas, TX for meeting with WRG reps re resolution of bankruptcy on Oct. 25.

We recommend a reasonable ceiling of \$250.00 per day plus applicable taxes for lodging (\$350.00 for New York and selected other cities). With the cost split as indicated, receipts indicate a per-day room rate of \$555.00 plus taxes of \$77.73 for the New York entry and \$495.00 plus taxes of \$64.35 for the Dallas entry. We asked the Committee to explain why these lodging entries should not be viewed as excessive. The Committee responded as follows.

In response to the Fee Auditor's Initial Report for the PI Committee for the 23rd Interim Period, Mr. Rice has agreed to accept the amount customarily allowed for lodging, as well as a reduction to \$60.00 for the transportation costs.

We appreciate the response. For the lodging entry of October 19, 2006, we recommend a reduction of \$205.00, and for the November 9, 2006 entry a reduction of \$245.00. Thus we recommend a

reduction of \$450.00 for lodging expenses.

4. We note three transportation charges that appear excessive. The entries are provided below.

06/21/06	Joseph F. Rice - Car transportation to/from meeting with Elihu Inselbuch in NYC on May 16,2006	134.00
10/24/06	Joe Rice - Travel to New York on Oct. 9, 2006 (1/3 of car charge from airport to hotel).	44.67
11/09/06	Joseph F. Rice - 1/3 of car charge to airport re: trip to NYC for meeting on Oct. 9, 2006.	36.67

The accompanying receipts indicate that all of these charges were with a limousine service. Our research indicates an easily obtainable flat rate of \$45.00 for taxi service from JFK to midtown Manhattan. Even with a generous gratuity, that transportation expense should not exceed \$60.00. We asked the Committee to explain why these expenses should be reimbursed at a level exceeding \$60.00 for each. As referenced in the response shown above, the Committee agreed to reduce each transportation charge to \$60.00. By our calculations, this would result in a recommended reduction of \$115.34 for transportation expenses.

#### CONCLUSIONS

5. Thus we recommend approval of \$1,630.47 (\$2,195.81 minus \$565.34) for reimbursement of expenses incurred between October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006, by Joseph Rice of Motley Rice, LLC, a member of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

WARREN H. SMITH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: Warren H. Smith

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#### **FEE AUDITOR**

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served First Class United States mail to the attached service list on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2007.

Warren H Smith

#### **SERVICE LIST**

#### **Notice Parties**

#### The Applicant

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#### The Debtors

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